

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for carefully reviewing the case and for indicating the allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 14 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-13, 17 and 22-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 14-16 and 18-21 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 10- 3 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the admitted prior art. However, for the sake of expediting the issuance of this case, claims 10-13 and 28-30 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of breadth similar to those of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-9, 14-16, 18, 19-21 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Lehman, et al., US Patent No. 5,454,107 ("Lehman") or Collins, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,115,791 ("Collins").

Claims 14 and 19 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 17 and 22, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 19 and their dependent claims.

With regard to independent claims 1 and 28, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the admitted prior art and cited references. However,

for the sake of expediting the issuance of this case, claims 1 and 28 and their dependent claims are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of breadth similar to those of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

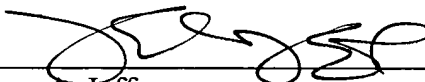
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Aslam A. Jaffery
Reg. No. 51,841

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980